



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rich.Malinowski@noaa.gov

727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

July 26, 2016

FB16-052

NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes to Red Grouper Allowable Harvest in the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries is seeking comments on changes to the red grouper allowable harvest in the Gulf of Mexico.

Proposed Changes:

- Increase the Gulf of Mexico red grouper annual catch limit and quota (annual catch target) for the commercial sector from 6.03 and 5.72 million pounds gutted weight, to 8.19 and 7.78 million pounds gutted weight, respectively.
- Increase the Gulf of Mexico red grouper annual catch limit and annual catch target for the recreational sector from 1.9 and 1.73 million pounds gutted weight, to 2.58 and 2.37 million pounds gutted weight, respectively.

Need for Action:

This increase in allowable harvest is anticipated to allow the recreational fishing season the opportunity to remain open yearlong instead of closing late in the season. In addition, the increase in quota will provide the commercial fisherman an increase in their Individual Fishing Quota allocation.

How to Submit Comments:

NOAA Fisheries must receive comments on this proposed rulemaking no later than August 25, 2016. You may submit comments on the amendment or the proposed rule, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2016-0077", by one of the following methods:

Electronic Submission: Go to the federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0077>

click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments.

Mail: NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
c/o Rich Malinowski
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on the regulations.gov website without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast is pleased to announce the introduction of our **Text Message Alert Program**. The program will allow you to sign up to receive important fishery related alerts via text message. Text alerts you may receive include immediate fishery openings and closures, and any significant changes to fishing regulations that happen quickly.

How to opt-in

Sign up for related alerts for one or more of the following groups. Standard message & data rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time.

- **Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries:** Text GULFrecFISH to 888777
- **Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries:** Text GULFcommFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Recreational Fisheries:** Text SATLrecFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Commercial Fisheries:** Text SATLcommFISH to 888777
- **Caribbean Fisheries:** Text CARIBFISH to 888777